suppose, have foreseen this from the beginning, and, on this ground, have advised the immediate seizure of the undefended posts and arsenals.

Returning now to our narrative, Mr. Buchanan, "being advised by Major Anderson of the hostile preparations of the South Carolinians, determined to reinforce Fort Sumter at once. We have not the space, nor is it needful, to go into the details of the projects which were considered; suffice it to say that the Government finally chartered an unarmed steamer, the *Star of the West,* which, on the 9th of January, 1861, entered the harbor of Charleston, but was compelled by the enemy's fire from a battery on Morris Island, to retire without having readied Fort Sumter. She was struck twice, but no one was injured. Major Anderson, not having received official notice of this expedition for his relief, and willing to believe that the attack on the steamer hud not been authorized by the Governor of the State, wrote a peremptory note to Pickens,[1] telling him that only on the hope that the firing on the *Star of* $4 IFW had not received his sanction or authority, did he refrain from opening fire upon his batteries, and notifying him that unless the act were promptly disclaimed, he should treat it as an act of war, and should henceforth not permit any vessels

to pass within range of the guns of his fort. To thin note he received the same day a reply,[2] couched in courteous but very explicit terms, in which the whole responsibility for the firing at the *$tar of tJut Wwt* was unhesitatingly assumed by the Governor. In it

[1] I W. R., 134. a//*V. 135.